

United States Senate

President Pro Tempore

Washington, DC 20510
February 7, 2005

Ted Stevens

Alaska

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Dennis:

America is facing an energy crisis. We are increasing our imports of oil every year and mortgaging our future by outsourcing jobs and sending American dollars overseas.

We have locked up our own lands and failed to invest in our best hope for energy independence: responsible domestic production on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). In a post-9/11 world, we are putting our national security at risk and threatening our national defense by relying on unstable or unfriendly regimes to meet our energy needs. We have to take a different approach now before the situation gets even worse.

Congress' inability to enact a comprehensive energy policy and encourage domestic production created this situation, and the average American family is paying the price.

The debate over ANWR has become a symbolic one, leading some opponents to misconstrue the facts and misrepresent the history of this issue.

I recently received a letter from a former colleague, Judge James L. Buckley. Judge Buckley served as U.S. Senator for the state of New York from 1971-1977. For many years, he strongly opposed oil and gas exploration and development in ANWR. When he left the U.S. Senate, Judge Buckley was the lead signatory in full-page ads opposing oil exploration and development in ANWR.

HE NOW SUPPORTS EXPLORATION IN ANWR. I urge you to read the attached letter in which he details his knowledge of this area and clearly states oil and gas development would not "destroy" the critical values that ANWR is intended to serve."

Resource development and conservation are NOT mutually exclusive. The United States has the most stringent environmental safeguards to protect tundra, the ecosystem and wildlife. New technologies ensure that resource development will occur in an environmentally sensitive manner. In fact, a Clinton Administration report entitled the "Environmental Benefits of Advanced Oil and Gas and Production Technology" demonstrated that oil and gas can be removed in an environmentally sensitive manner. And remember, if we do it, it will be cleaner than if we leave it to the Russians, the Saudis or anyone else for that matter.

Judge Buckley, a stalwart environmentalist, now recognizes this fact. A balanced approach to resource development in ANWR is possible, and the persuasive case for this is outlined in his letter.

Republicans and Democrats alike believe American dependence on foreign oil threatens our national security, and yet we continue to import over half of our oil needs. This fact was even acknowledged by Thomas B. Stoel of the Natural Resources Defense Council in testimony before the House Subcommittee on Public Lands. He stated that "the national security importance of Alaskan North Slope oil is that it will relieve the United States of the necessity to import an equal amount of foreign oil."

Contrary to information contained in the Dear Colleague letter that Representatives Edward Markey and Nancy Johnson recently sent, neither the Range nor the Coastal Plain of ANWR were "set aside specifically for preserving wildlife for future generations." I should know-- I worked in the Eisenhower Administration and drafted portions of the Order creating Arctic National Wildlife Range which specifically permitted oil and gas exploration and development.

I also worked on the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which set aside 104 million acres in the "national interest." That Act contained an amendment authored by Senators Paul Tsongas and Henry "Scoop" Jackson to set aside 1.5 million acres for oil and gas exploration in ANWR. The "Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act" is a gross mischaracterization of the intent and history of ANWR.

This is the history of ANWR, and it is undisputed. ANWR will be the second largest oil field in North America, capable of producing an estimated 1 million barrels of oil per day. This is oil produced on our own soil, with our own workforce, used to heat American homes and power America's farms and industries. And ANWR will generate over \$30 billion in federal revenues and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

ANWR will provide these benefits without harming the environment. Fully 98% of the Refuge will remain untouched. And of the 1.5 million acres on the Coastal Plain, only 2000 acres will be developed.

If we foreclose the opportunity to develop the Coastal Plain of ANWR, we will fail the American people. Stable energy prices, economic growth and improved national security will only come when we develop this domestic energy resource. That's why a majority of Americans now support oil exploration in ANWR.

I urge you to examine the facts. When you do, I hope you will join Judge Buckley and support exploration and development in ANWR.

With best wishes,

Cordially,



TED STEVENS